Week 3 Activity

Biological Sciences – Expert Group Member 1

Introduced Species

Introduced Species: Cats

European settlers introduced cats to Australia as pets during the 18th Century. During the 19th Century the cats were deliberately released into the goldfields to catch rabbits, mice and rats. This was misguiding information and today they are a significant problem throughout the whole of Australia. Due to their release this has caused a major threat to today’s native species and 80 endangered species, according to Australia’s Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999). The cats have caused a reduction in the population of Brown Falcons, Southern Brown Bandicoots, Striped Legless Lizards and Smoky Buzzer Cicadas.

Lapidge, K., Braysher, M., & Sarre, S. (2010). *Pest Smart.* Retrieved from http://www.feral.org.au/pestsmart/feral-cats/

Food web – no Feral Cat

Food web – Feral Cat

Brown Falcon

Stripped Legless

Southern Brown Bandicoot Lizard

Smoky Buzzer Cicada

Kangaroo Grass

Cat

Brown Falcon

Southern Brown Stripped Legless

Bandicoot Lizard

Smoky Buzzer Cicada

Kangaroo Grass